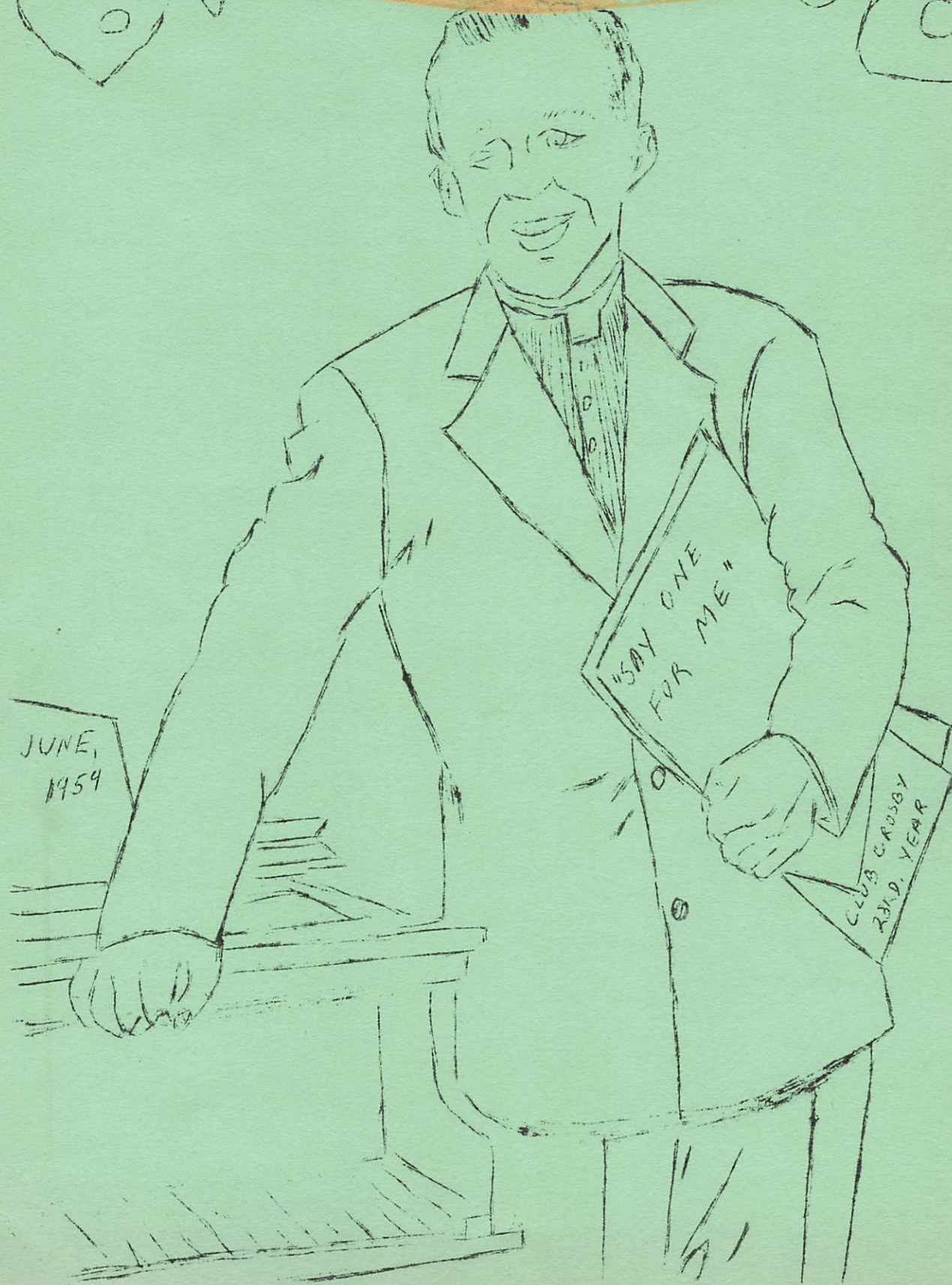




JUNE,
1959

CLUB CROSBY
23RD. YEAR

BINGANG

Vol. XIII No. 2

June, 1959

THE CLUB CROSBY PRESENTATION

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here we are once again with a new journal, thank you once again for your nice words on the last issue.

With Bing taking things easy, Larry's letter tells us of his plans for the future. He will be making his second movie for 20th. Century-Fox, in late May. Kathryn is in, Ishpeming, Michigan on location for her movie, "Anatomy of a Murder". While here in New York for wardrobe fittings, she visited a six year old girl at the "Rehabilitation of New York University-Bellevue Medical Center". The girl is very sick, and she said to Kathryn, "I love nurses, I know you do to". Kathryn promised her she would come back next year to help her celebrate her next birthday.

The snap on page four, the sketching of Bing, was sent to me by Larry, and I like to say thank you once again. The snap of Bing at his golf tournament was taken by Priscilla Kjoernig, and I like to also say thank you to her once again. The snap of Bing and the twins on page ten, come from the March 1 issue of the New York Daily News, and the one on page twenty-one of Kathryn and "Tex", came from the March 30th. issue of Newsweek.

Now comes the good news of Bing and Kathryn's expecting their second child. Of course we are all very happy for them. Kathryn said in her phone call to Louella Parson's, "Bing is delighted, and this time we are not going to talk about having a girl.", but of course, you know we will all be hoping.

Next, comes Bing's appearance on Television (March 2), and as was his first show, this was also tops. I have put some of the reviews here in our newspapers in New York City. I'm sure you saw Bing on his golf tournament from Pebble Beach (January 18) which was very enjoyable, and the few minutes when he appeared on Dean Martin's show on, (March 19).

I hope you'll enjoy the article on, "Say One for Me" some of you may have already seen the movie, as you can see by Larry's letter, the picture at this time was set for release, May 30th. Ed Sullivan said in his column this week, "Bing Crosby getting sneak preview raves for, "Say One for Me".

Since this is our 23rd. year, I thought you would enjoy the article by Bing in the year (1936) when our club started. I also listed Bing's movies and records released in that year.

Another happy day for Bing was when he hit a hole-in-one at a golf tournament in Phoenix, on February 4th, it was the fourth time he had done this, but the first in tournament competition.

The news about the boys, that they plan to work together as a quartet, working in nightclubs together. Nick Castle a choreographer with Paramount will stage their show. They hope to open in London. Linny is also wanted for movie rolls at 20th. Century Fox.

I'd like to once again welcome to our new members. I hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

Marjorie Mower

Mary Joe Corben

Henrietta Gerth

Werner Dinges - West Germany

Marlice Ging

Betty Feldman

Les Gaylor

Joseph Albert

Tina DiCamio

Betty Glemboski

I guess that's about all for now, please do go ahead and enjoy the journal. I hope you will soon all be contributing to our future journals.

April 2, 1959

Miss. Rena Albanesi, President
THE CLUB CROSBY
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

Latest release date on "Say One For Me" is
May 30.

There are 8 songs, the standouts probably
being:

"Say One for Me"
"The Secret of Christmas"
"The Night Rock and Roll Died"
"I Couldn't Care Less"

Bing is now vacationing, and golfing on the
desert. Will soon do a benefit in Texas,
and then go North for the trout and salmon
season.

Sincerely



Larry Crosby

LC:vs

SNAPS FOR SALE

1. Kathy and Tex (Look Jan. 20, 1959)
2. Bing and Debbie Reynolds, "Say One for Me"
3. Bing at Wenatchee, Washington Golf Tournament - 1953
4. Bing, Rise Stevens, Barry Fitzgerald, "Going My Way"
5. Bing, Ingrid Bergman, "Bells of St. Marys"
6. Bing, Phil Harris, Walter Winchell, Bob Hope - Tournament of
Champions at Las Vegas, 1958
7. Bing and Kathy at his golf tourney
8. Bing, Jimmy Demaret at Phoenix Open Golf Tournament
9. Bing alone say tourney
10. Bing and Debbie Reynolds, "Say One for Me" (clerical garb)
11. The Rhythm Boys in 1928
12. The Rhythm Boys in 1943 reunion with Paul Whiteman
13. Bing, Bob and Everett in 1935
14. Bing at the ABC Mike
15. Kathy here in New York visiting a little little in hospital

If you wish any of these snaps they are 10¢ each. I also have
many more for sale, if you wish any of them, please let me know and I
will send you a list.

BING CROSBY'S FIRST "NEW ACTS" NOTICE

Variety October 6, 1926

Crosby and Rinker - Songs - Granada, San Francisco

Two boys from Spokane and not new to show business but new to picture house work. They appeared with Will Morrissey's Music Hall Revue, and were a success in a show that was a flop. Bringing their methods to the Granada, they registered solidly and on the crowded Sunday performances practically stopped the show.

The Duo works with a piano and minus orchestral accompaniment. Blues of the feverish variety are their specialty. They are well equipped with material, presumably their own. Young and clean cut, the boys found a quick welcome. When they have completed their weeks locally, they will unquestionably find a market for their wares in other presentation houses.

Wherever the public goes for "hot" numbers served hot, Crosby and Rinker ought to have an easy time.

(The above probably may be the first national and/or tradepaper, review of Bing Crosby ever printed. It predates the millionaire-to-be forming a trio with the said Al Rinker and Harry Barris within the Paul Whiteman family. Of some interest is the fact that in 1926 San Francisco was still so important theatrically that VARIETY then had a salaried full-time reporter there, Robert J. Landry, the present managing editor of the paper.)

(Variety)

January 7, 1959

A French painter named Jean Van Caulaerts had done portraits of many celebrities, including a few who belong to royalty and he also has done a canvas of Bing Crosby which depicts The Groaner without his toupee. Bing is seated, head ashine, with the familiar pipe in his hand. His right hand is hidden behind his body. Somebody asked Van Caulaerts why he didn't allow Bing's right hand.

"Because was the reply, "he was holding his toupee in it."
(Daily News)

February 22, 1959

Eddie Cantor tells about the time he was the guest of the late President Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Georgia, back in 1933. Roosevelt had to make a talk over the radio. A few minutes before the broadcast, F.D.R. took his place before the battery of microphones and said, "Eddie I always have to limber up before making a speech." The President of the United States then moved to the mike to the mike and in the best Bing Crosby manner began to croon. "When the blue of the night meets the gold of the day-" etcetera.

Herald Tribune"

February 25, 1959

Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin cooking up a deal for an independent production of Joseph Dever's "Three Priests", in which all three would play padres.

(Daily New)

March 9, 1959

It's either heil or hiss for Bing Crosby hereabouts. He's now been given honorary lifetime fish 'n' hunt permit as payoff for a pair of gratis filmed comeons for British Columbia centenary last year.

Five years ago, when city's top hotel refused Crosby because of his "disreputable outdoor duds.

(Variety)

March 11, 1959

Kathryn Grant Crosby might be amused to learn that a Bronx movie theatre marquee bills her as "Mrs. Der Bingle."

(Herald Tribune)

March 16, 1959

Ingrid Bergman came through with an honest utterance of relief when she won the best actress trophy in 1945 for "Gaslight". She was working with Bing Crosby and LeoMcCarey on "Bells of St. Marys" at the time-and for weeks the pair had been ribbing her. That evening she saw McCarey win writing and directing "Oscars," and Crosby, the best actor prize. When her name was called she ran up joyously, clasped the statuette to her chest and fairly shouted, "If I hadn't gotten this I could never have gone on the set tomorrow.

(New York Journal American)

March 17, 1959

Gary Crosby and his brothers (Philip, Dennis and Lindsay) are putting together a night club act. The expect to play Vegas, Chicago, New York and London...Dick Stabile and his orchestra, who accompany Jerry Lewis, Sammy Davis Jr., etc. will be with the Crosby boys...

(New York Post)

March 24, 1959

Kathryn Grant Crosby was here in New York for wardrobe fittings before reporting to Ishpeming, Michigan and her starring role in Otto Preminger's "Anatomy of a Murder". Others topcast in the movie are James Stewart, Lee Remick, Gen Gazzara, Arthur O'Connell and Eve Arden

(Daily News)

March 29, 1959

Kathryn Grant (Mrs. Bing Crosby) speaks perfect Espanol. She does the trailers and dubbing in for the Spanish versions of her films.

(Daily Mirror)

April 1, 1959

* * * * *



Well members, there isn't much to report from "Down Under" this time, but I must tell you about seeing Gary in "Mardi Gras" which was showing in Christchurch recently. He gave an outstanding performance, and we wish him every success with "Holiday for Lovers" soon to be released.

Of course, we are all delighted that Bing is making two more pictures. It will be just wonderful seeing him on the screen again after such a long absence. We are hoping "Say One For Me" will be here later this year.

In closing, I would like to endorse Rena's remarks in the previous Journal about the co-operation Mr. Larry Crosby has given her with Club affairs, and say "Thank you" to Mr. Crosby and the staff of the Crosby Enterprises for all the help and advise they have given me during the years as New Zealand Group Leader and now as President of the Southern Cross Branch.

All for now, so goodbye, and best wishes to you all.

RECORD REVIEW Rena Albanesi

Church Bells and Rain - Bing Crosby (Decca). Backed by the Buddy Cole Trio, Bing's relaxed Como sounds like he needs tranquilizers. "Church Bells" is a sunny gentle little song and "Rain," the familiar standard, is taken at an easy swing by Bing as Trio expertly echoes the light mood.

(New York Journal American)

January 30, 1959

In A Little Spanish Town

DL 8846

Twelve previously recorded tunes with a Spanish theme pulled together and attractively packaged to capture part of today's popular Latin market. Tunes include "You Belong to My Heart", "Granada," "Vaya Con Dios," and "In A Little Spanish Town," Should be popular with the many Crosby fans.

(Billboard)

April 6, 1959

Lindsay Crosby

R.C.A. 7429

Delia - The folk based tune is sung pleasantly by the young Crosby over happy combo support.

I Know - Novelty blues effort is given a fair shout by the Crosby scion.

(Billboard)

December 31, 1958

Gary Crosby

Verve 10163

Sentimental Journey - Smart, dual-track reading of the oldie is also a powerful contender. Good jockey side with a good chance to step out. Sides are from his recent album.

After The Lights Go Down Low - This is one of the young chanter's strongest bids recently. He reads the oldie in knowing manner. Fine ork backing helps. This appears one to watch.

(Billboard)

February 16, 1959

BIRTHDAY LIST

Priscilla Koernig - 349 Banks Street - San Francisco 10, Calif. Aug 8
Mildred Hubschmitt - 34-49 89th. Street - Jackson Heights 72, New York

Aug 14

Marian Bogan - 801 South 27th. Street - Lafayette, Indiana - Sept 20
(Please let me know when your birthday is, so I can put it on my list)

Looking back over the years of the star spangled career of our idol, Bing Crosby, it's not hard to realize why here in 1959, we find him being taken for granted by today's 'pop star followers'. It's not a dislike for Bing that produces this position, everybody likes Bing. No it goes much deeper than that. What then is the reason for just a generally acceptance of America's greatest entertainer?

In 30 years of topflight entertainment, Der Bingle has won just about every award there is to be won in show business; His Oscar for, "Going My Way" his 20 Gold Discs for records which have sold over a million; His "White Christmas" which with sales at way over ten million copies sold, is the all time best selling 'pop' record. And a host of other awards for his stature in films, recordings and public life.

Here in 1959 there doesn't seem to be any more that Bing can do to add to this already impressive list. We can all be very certain of one great fact and that is, the name of Bing Crosby is one which has stamped the seal of quality on American entertainment. Look at the 'big' names today and you'll know what I mean....Martin, Como, who both admit they followed the Crosby pattern. Even Frankie boy himself admitted that it was after seeing a Bing Crosby picture that he decided to become a singing star.

When the Pat Boone recording of, "There's a Gold Mine in the Sky" was climbing the American hit-parade a year or so ago we recollected that the Crosby version of this cowboy classic was making it's impression on the same chart 17 years earlier. Where was Bing at this time? Yes he was still very much around. In fact, only a few months earlier he had been enjoying a further hit-parade success with is "True Love."

We in the British Isles, envy the American fans of Bing Crosby and the almost personal contact they have with the Star of Stars. Unlike the American fans, we don't have the TV shows and the Golf Tournaments to look forward to, and even the films and record releases are showing a decline these days. But never mind, Der Bingle is still around, doing a little each year, and after all, that's the main thing.

In recent years Bing has been known to remark that he wasn't up to it any more. Nonsense Bing, "Gigi" proves that you're still the 'master'. We shall look forward to the day when our Palladium boss, Mr. Val Parnall will be successful in one of his many bids to tice the world's premier entertainer to do a season at the London Palladium. Like I said before, Everybody likes Bing.

THE BING AND I

Michael Holliday, the Young Groaner who sings as near as dammit like the Old Groaner himself, Bing Crosby, was almost excited at the news.

"I'm not a guy who gets excited," Mike confessed to me. "But at long last I'm going to realize a great personal ambition. I'm going to meet Bing! I've just had a letter from him and I'm going over to see him in the States probably in May."

Does Bing know anything about this lantern-jawed singing ex-sailor with the Crosby touch?

Oh, yes. He says in his letter that he has heard a lot about Mike from Bing fans in Britain-and what's more he is happy and pleased at Mike's success.

THE BING AND I.....Cont'd.

Said Mike: "I've always looked up to Bing, I wrote and told him that any success that I have is all due to him.

"I try to sing like him, always have done. But never did I think I'd get paid for it....

"My wife is as big a Bing fan as I am and she wants to go to the States with me.

"It'll do me good to meet him," said Mike. "I've waited for it so long. But now that it's going to happen, I'm scared...."

Relax, Mr. Holliday!

(British Daily Mirror)

March 12, 1959

* * * * *

R 'n' BEGINS TO FADE; GOOD SONGS COMING BACK

Ben Gross

"You know, I just didn't realize how much I've been missing those good songs," a friend of mine remarked the other day. His teen-age boy then chimed in: "Yeah, pop, rock 'n' roll ain't everything"-words he would have not uttered a year ago.

We were still licking our figurative chops over the melodic morsels served on two recent TV musical shows-the Bing Crosby special on ABC and the last Telephone Hour via NBC. This should cause no surprise as good pop music is still about the scarcest commodity on the channels.

Of course, the rock 'n' roll curse brought about this condition. All it ever had was a beat and this is what captured those in their teens. They rushed to the record stores and to the juke box emporiums and turned into best-sellers hundreds of atrocities disguised as songs.

Best-sellers, mind you, among the cheaply priced single platters. The albums still continued to feature good music - melodic Broadway show and movie numbers, standards and the best of jazz. But these were bought for the most part by the more mature public-not the teen-age kids.

And yet the radio disk jockeys, almost entirely, and those who select songs for TV, in great part, have been guided not by the album sales but by the demand for the single records. As a result, the air has been flooded with horrendous noises-each one an assault on sensitive ears-outrageous lyrics and the trashiest of music.

It is this junk which finally almost pushed off the air the great numbers of Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Frank Loesser, Hoagy Carmichael and others who deserve our respect. It is this garbage which eventually dragged "Your Hit Parade" from its eminence.

In order to survive this show had to abandon its fishing in the sewers of r 'n' r and revive some of great songs of the past. But the act of atonement came too late.

So it seems we're on the verge of getting good popular songs on the air once more. Certainly, hearing Crosby joining with the wonderful Jo Stafford in such ditties as "Fancy Meeting You Here" and "Slow Boat to China" whetted one's appetite.

It almost tempts one to hum that former "Hit Parade" theme song-"Happy Days Are Here Again."

(Daily News)

March 12, 1959

"White Christmas" - Irving Berlin was asked to present the Oscar for the best song. He was handed the sealed envelope. Berlin opened it and announced, "Winner-Irving Berlin for 'White Christmas'. Then he did a double take as if saying that's me.

(New York Post)

February 16, 1959

Hi Members!

Well, I don't know about you, but I'm anxiously awaiting those nice balmy days. This has been a bad winter for me because since the holidays I seem to have had one cold after another. But it won't be long now and the nice weather will be here.

The first member we're going to meet this issue is Millie Hubschmitt, of 34-49 89th. Street, Jackson Heights 72, New York. Millie has written a very interesting letter, so I'm going to let her tell you about herself in her own words.

"I'm fairly a recent member in the CLUB CROSBY. My name is Mildred Hubschmitt, but everyone calls me Millie. I am 26 years old. I was born in Paterson, New Jersey on August 14, 1933. I went to George Washington High School in Manhattan and graduated in 1951. We moved to Woodside, in 1950, then to Jackson Heights in 1953. We have been living in our new house only a little more than a year. We first moved to 92nd. Street, then here.

After I graduated high school, I became a secretary, but was only working for 6 months when I had to quit because my mother became blind I've been housekeeper, chief cook, and general maid-of-all-work for the family ever since. It's been tough, but I'm not complaining. After all, my mother did all these same things until 1951.

I have 8 brothers (3 married) and one sister, the oldest is 46 (Dad was married once before - he became a widower shortly before Mother and he married) and the youngest is 15.

My interest are: collecting autographs (since 1952 I have collected over 1,000), collecting foreign stamps, and collecting foreign coins. I have approximately 80 foreign stamps and about \$8.00 worth of foreign coins. (These last two I've been collecting a few months.

My favorite actors are Alan Ladd, Bill Holden, Bing Crosby. My favorite singers are Bing Crosby, Connie Boswell, Lillian Roth and Perry Como. My favorite actresses are Ann Sheridan, Anne Baxter, and Barbara Britton. My latest "crush" is on Harry Belafonte. Isn't he superb.

Other clubs I belong to are: 3 of Lillian Roth's Clubs, James Daly Club, Virginia Vincent Club and Al Jolson Memorial Club, a philanthropic organization. My newest interest is the CLUB CROSBY, which I think is wonderfully handled. The club journals are the best of all the club journals I get, thanks to Rena.

I enjoy good singing and good music, especially the "Bing" brand. It's the best in my opinion.

Recently, I received a thank you card from Bing and Kathy thanking me for the Christmas card I sent them and "Tex". I sent "Tex" a separate Santa Claus type one. Before that I had gotten a lovely Christmas card from them. It came about a week late, but I didn't care! To me, it was the best thing that could happen.

I'm sure you all enjoyed meeting Millie. Now, let's go way out to California to meet Beryl Bauer, Rt. 2, Box 232, Crescent City, California.

Beryl is past 30, is 5' 3" tall, has blue eyes and light brown hair. She has lived on the coast all of her life and Crescent City is on the California coast near the Oregon border. Beryl lives at home with her parents and does not work, so she has plenty of time for her favorite interest, which is TV.

She has been an ardent fan of Bing's for over 20 years. Lew Ayres and Jim Arness are among her many other favorites. Beryl's hobbies are collecting newspaper items about her favorite stars,

MEET THE MEMBERS.....Cont'd.

scrapbooks and writing down the survey of YOUR HIT PARADE, which she has done since 1937. She likes popular music very much.

Beryl writes that she would like to hear from others who have the same hobbies and interests as she does.

That about does it for this time, except to say that I would like to hear from some more of you. I'm running low on material again.

When next we meet in these pages I'll have returned from a three week's visit to the Hawaiian Islands. Can't really believe I'm going and by jet, no less. Leaving May 30th. If you're interested I'll write about my trip for BINGANG.

'Bye now.

A Kind of Security

BING'S WIFE NURSES NEED 'TO SERVE'

Why would a girl like Kathryn Grant be studying to become a registered nurse?

Her movie acting career is building all the time. She is married to Bing Crosby, so she doesn't need the security.

"But there are differnt kinds of security," she comments.

Kathy has long puzzled her fellow workers in the movie mills. She has all the attributes of a film star, as anyone can testify who has seen her. Yet she refuses to play merely the role of screen-actress-or the wife of a millionaire celebrity.

When she isn't working at a studio or at one of the Crosby vacation homes, she reports at 6:35 a.m. to a local hospital. She serves as a scrub technician in surgery until 2:30 in the afternoon, sometimes transfers to the maternity section to help out there.

As part of her long-range program to become a R.N. she is also taking a correspondence course from the University of California in physiology.

"Oh, it's tough for me," she said. "All through school I avoided science courses, I got my degree (from U. of Texas) in fine arts, which is good for an actress, but useless to a nurse. Now I have to learn a whole new vocabulary."

The reason for this drive?

"I'm lucky to be in a line of work that is more like play. Bing always says when he makes a movie he feels as if he's stealing money. I feel the same way. I can't imagine anything that can be more fun."

"It's part of life to have fun. It's also a part of life to serve."

Kathy said she is constantly impressed by the selfless service of the nurses with whom she works. Aside from the matter of being of use to her fellow man, she finds nursing training of real value at home.

I feel much more at ease with the baby," she remarked. "And Bing's mother who just had a cataract operation has confidence in me."

I asked if Bing didn't feel she was attempting to do too much.

"Yes, he has said that," she admitted, "and so has his mother. But I told her: If I could raise seven children and put them all through college on \$150 a month, as you did, then I might think I was doing too much."

"Actually, the busy life is the only way I know how to live. I don't play bridge. I'm not good at working in clubs."

"Whenever Bing is here in town, he's working all the time. And when we do get away to Palm Springs, I appreciate the vacation so much more. I feel I have



Bing, Philip and Dennis
rehearsing

BING ROLLS ON HIS JOYFUL WAY

Harriet Van Horne

In terms of style, grace, warmth, wit and charm-charm that would melt a stone idol-no man in show business comes even close to Bing Crosby. He's the blithiest, the smoothest and the most durable of them all.

His special ABC variety show last evening was a joy to all the senses. It had an easy-going air (the art that hides a deeper art), and a sly endearing insouciance.

Looking trim and at times almost boyish, Bing sang the old songs we all love to hear. Everything from "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans" to "Hindustan". He danced with his customary old-slipper elegance. And he delivered his punch lines in the practiced manner of an old rogue winking at a pretty girl.

How sad it is that this entertainer we've all admired since the yearning days of our youth elects to do only two TV shows a year. How perfectly at home he seems in our living rooms! And how superior in the widest, deepest sense of the word-he is to the rock 'n' roll singers with their oiled pompadours and drooping lips. To all but the youngest teen-agers, Mr. Crosby is an old friend. A man who has grown old along with everybody else but managed not to show it.

To be sure a great many entertainers contrive to look decades younger than they are. But they are carefully, consciously youthful. Terribly gallant about the whole thing, too, with lots of brave little chinup jokes beseeching you, "Please notice-I'm still a devil with the ladies."

Not Mr. Crosby. His youth appears to be fully natural. He looks 35 in the long shots, a shade over 40 when the awful eye of the camera draws close. But his voice is as robust, as gay, as romantic as it was back in his "Blue Moon" days.

BING ROLLS ON HIS JOYFUL WAY.....Cont'd.

He displayed more verve and vitality last night than did the twin sons who performed with him.

Obviously, this was a show that had been worked over meticulously. It made no concessions to the bad musical tastes of the hour. Producer Sammy Cahn and Crosby's long-time writer, Bill Morrow, kept the pace brisk, the mood nostalgic. They even found a gracious, natural way to bring in guest star Jim Garner (Maverick), who surely is a man from another world. They simply put him on a rocking horse and let him sing the great Harold Arlen tune, "Free and Easy."

Mr. Crosby's lady guest was Jo Stafford. She wore tastful gowns, sang with perfect phrasing and seemed far warmer and happier than is her wont.

All performers seem to show off better when they work with Bing. Whether he gives them new confidence or merely offers a standard of excellence to aim at, I don't know. But the glow is there. Even the dance team, Hanson and Tadlock seemed to have it.

And even that hideous dance, the cha-cha-cha, took on unsuspected grace when danced by Mr. Crosby and Miss. Stafford.

(World Telegram & Sun)

March 3, 1959

Bing Crosby, looking young enough to be one of his sons, came up with a tuneful happy hour last night that furnished viewers with a full measure of entertainment. Featuring Jo Stafford, James Garner, Philip and Dennis Crosby, Thelma Tadlock and Tom Hansen, in addition to a brief surprise appearance of Dean Martin, it was a show that never tried to overpower you, but instead lifted you gently along in an air of relaxation.

Crosby remains one of the most charming showmen of our age and with Miss. Stafford, a singing lady of real quality, delivered a score or more of fine standard tunes in easy, breezy fashion. Garner exchanged some amusing Maverick-type patter with the Groaner and also took a couple of vocal turns at bat. He sings as well as any non-singing actor and his contributions were pleasant for their novelty appeal.

Likewise, the Crosby twins' function as a set of musical book-ends demonstrated no walloping talents, but integrated into the informal proceedings as they were, they too came off most effectively.

(Herald Tribune)

March 3, 1959

The more trouble they take, the more elaborately casual the shows are. You might put that down as Crosby's Law. Bing Crosby's second show of the season seemed marvelously effortless, not only by the Groaner but by everyone concerned-indicating long and painful preparation by writer Bill Morrow, director-producer Bill Colleran and producer Sammy Cahn.

The Crosby television shows have now assumed a solid and rewarding shape, closely resembling those of the old Kraft Music Hall radio shows. Starting with an elaborate singing introduction. It was almost all song, including song introductions by two of Crosby's sons-Philip and Dennis-to the tune of "The Children's Marching Song".

Crosby's marvelous sense of rhythm seemed to infect every one around him. I can't remember a more enjoyable hour of song and fun on television. Everything worked. Nothing obtruded. Nothing seemed hurried or harried. Nothing seemed forced.

Crosby will be back with his next show in the Fall, which should give him plenty of time to prepare.

(Herald Tribune)

March 6, 1959

John Crosby

It was a beautiful weekend this year at the Bing Crosby Golf Tournament. We went down to Pebble Beach on Saturday, January 17th, got settled in our motel, then drove to Cypress Point. My cousin, Maryrose Cordell, a neighbor, Lola Clements (both Club Crosby members) and Donna De Vere, my girl friend, came with me again this year to "The Crosby".

I had a hunch that Bing would be at Cypress that day. But, since we didn't see him after staying about two hours, we decided to leave. We drove over to the Pebble Beach Course and walked to Bing's home. We heard later that Bing had been at Cypress Point that day. And, we certainly were mad because we didn't stay there. We more than made up for that one mistake the next day, though.

On Sunday (January 18th) we got up early so that we could get to the course about 8:30 A.M. I planned to get there early on purpose. We went almost directly to the 18th hole to wait for "Mr. Bing". On the final day of "The Crosby" the action is all at Pebble; they play golf at all three courses (Pebble Beach, Cypress Point and Monterey Peninsula) the first three days of the tournament.

Sure enough, about 9:45 or 10:00 A.M., I saw HIM come out of the club house and walk down the stairs towards the 18th green. I had decided that I would introduce myself to Bing, if the opportunity arose. I quickly handed my movie camera to Donna and started walking towards HIM. I don't know how I accomplished this now, as my knees were just shaking: but, as I got close to HIM, I said, "Bing, I would like to introduce myself to you. I am the West Coast Representative of your club--Priscilla Koernig from San Francisco." Bing said, "It's nice to meet you. I am glad you could come down here this year," and he shook hands with me. That was just about all we said to each other because he was in a hurry. Jim Garner was waiting for HIM to start broadcasting the beginning of the TV show. Everybody was wondering who the girl in the white coat was that Bing stopped to shake hands with as he had to ignore everyone else because he was in a hurry.

We saw him quite a few other times during the day. About a month ago I wrote to Bing about various topics, but mostly about the tournament, and this was his reply:

February 19, 1959

"Dear Priscilla:

Thanks for your note. I'm glad that you were able to get down to see the golf tournament in person. I must tell you, you got a real break too, because that's the best weather we've ever had. Maybe you're the one who brought it to us.

I'm glad that your girl friend got our picture together, and I'm sorry that you didn't see Kathryn. She was up there, but she had a lot of friends she was entertaining and a lot of things to do, and she didn't really get out on the golf course much. Maybe once or twice, I guess, is all.

Little "Tex" is doing just fine. He's very amusing at this age, and he keeps us entertained constantly. Of course there are occasions when he keeps us awake too, when we would rather be asleep, but that's just one of the things you must endure when you have small children around the house, and we don't mind it at all.

FROM THE WEST COAST.....Cont'd.

Mother had an operation for a cataract on one of her eyes, and it's been quite successful. She's going to see better I believe now, and is very happy about it.

Thanks again for your letter. Give my best to all the Club Members. As ever -

Your friend
(signed) BING"

BC:lm

Now for the news items:

S.F. Examiner, Nov. 25, 1958---Bing Shasta Deal---Redding, Calif. Bing Crosby has completed negotiations to buy the 1,350 acre Rising River Ranch, through which one of his favorite trout fishing streams flows, it was disclosed today. The ranch is located in northeastern Shasta County.

December, 1958---When Kathryn Grant was on the Peter Lind Hayes TV show, Pete thought he'd have some fun with her by introducing a puppet that resembled Kathy's husband (a fellow named Bing Crosby). This puppet was perched on Pete's shoulder, singing. Pete looked at Kathy and expecting a big smile--but instead, she was on the verge of tears and inquired very sadly, "When does the next plane leave for California?"

S.F. Chronicle, Jan. 19, 1959---Bing Crosby dined in the kitchen at Gallatin's in Monterey Thursday night---to get away from those grabbin' sleeve-tuggers, back-slappers and Bing-bangers.

L.A. Times, Jan. 21, 1959---"What did you think of the telecast from Bing Crosby's great golf tournament up at Pebble Beach?" asks the inquisitive Pasadena sports filbert. Peachy, doctor, just peachy. The Pebble Beach scenery, as always, was out of this world. The commercials for the automobile company were in good taste and very well done. Bing was the top pro of them all. There were five announcers working the 90-minute show and Bing made the others sound like amateurs. He not only knew the game better than any of the others and knew the players but he alone attempted to tie the whole thing together and tell us who was leading.

S.F. Call Bulletin, Feb. 18, 1959---With eyes shining, Kathryn Grant Crosby tells me: "The baby reached for Bing for the first time. Bing had been in Palm Springs for several days. He came into the room. The baby gave a big smile and reached for him. I've never rated it yet myself," she added.

S.F. Chronicle, March 17, 1959---Kate Crosby, Bing's mother, and a darling, visited her daughter-in-law Kathryn for the first time on "The Big Circus" set. Kathryn was in white tights for her trapeze act. When the photographer asked Kate if she'd pose with her, she said, "Absolutely not--unless she wears a cape over that costume." Pictures were not taken.

S.F. Examiner, March 3, 1959 ---BACKSTAGE WITH BING AT DRESS REHEARSEL---The baby shoes of Tex dangled from the top of the windshield of the Rolls Royce. In the rear seat, Tex's father sat at ease, his feet practically propped in the back of the chauffeur's neck. His hat was cocked over one eye.

FROM THE WEST COAST.....Cont'd.

He was puffing an unlit pipe. His name was Bing Crosby. When the car pulled in to the NBC studios at Burbank, Bing said: "Come in and take a look. We got a little thing going here." The "little thing" was last Monday's Bing Crosby "spec," so big that ABC had to hire an NBC hall to stage it. The lumberyard setting, designed for simple elegance (everything cut from raw wood) was in shipshape condition. The lighting had long since been perfected. Bing was in an unusually good mood thanks, I think, to Jim Garner. Bing is noted for reacting to jokes with the enthusiasm of a cold fish, but he was doubling up with laughter at Garner especially when Garner told his "Gunsmoke" and Chester stories. Bing discarded his pipe during rehearsal. "It's just as well," some one said, "it is so rancid you can smell it at a hundred yards."

Occasionally, Bing would bum a menthol cigaret from somebody. Press-agenting for Crosby is hardly necessary any more, so I asked ABC's press man what he did. "Not much," he confessed. "The only real job I have is carrying his pipe." Watching rehearsal was just like the old days when Bing put on radio shows in San Francisco. Same people doing the same chores: Ken Carpenter voicing the lead-in, Bill Morrow writing, Murdo MacKenzie producing---and always a character around, this time Society Kid Hogan for whom Bing once gave a party celebrating Hogan's "thirty years of unemployment." I asked the Society Kid how he thought the show would go. "The fight ain't nothin' he said, "it's the training that counts. They've trained oaky." Just before the final run-through, the director spoke through, the director spoke through the loudspeaker: "There'll be a 30 minute break. Check all problems" "Thirty minutes!" repeated Bill Morrow. "We couldn't check all our problems in 30 years."

The Extension Magazine, April, 1959---From the Hollywood Sets, Bing Crosby, for the third time, plays a priest in, "Say One for Me", an original, romantic drama with music written by Robert O'Brien for 20th. Century-Fox. As Father Conroy---a character based on the late Father Leonard, pastor of St. Malachy's the New York actors' Church---Bing helps solve moral, social and professional problems among his congregation of show people: especially those of two youngsters. One is a head-strong, stage-struck, Catholic girl (Debbie Reynolds). The other is a brash, "fallen-away", cabaret headliner (Robert Wagner) who produces the floor show at a second-rate night club where the girl tries to get her first break. One gossip columnist reports that there's to be a "Strip tease" in this sequence and many readers have written to ask me why Bing would play in such a story, especially as a priest. Besides talking on the sets, with Bing, Robert Wagner and director, Robert Tashlin, I've read parts of the script and have been shown, on the screen, as much of the film as was finished at the time of writing. What I saw reminded me strongly of "Going My Way". Father Conroy is an understanding, warm-hearted priest much like Father O'Malley (of, "Going My Way" and "Bells of St. Mary's). Of course, he sings! This time we see him at the altar, saying Mass, and hear him from the pulpit, as well as in the rectory parlor. He's easy with the young people, but plenty firm, too. Scenes in the seed-night club (which Father visits without the collar) although admittedly touchy, are essential in order to create to the girl's moral life. With Bing, I share high hopes that when finished, "Say One for Me" will be a highly entertaining, popular movie in which the moral and social influence of the Church is deftly reflected. Director Tashlin certainly is aware of all the risks, so we shall see.

FROM THE WEST COAST.....Cont'd.

Well, there was a bit of personal exciting news on the West Coast this time on which I could report. Let's hope I can continue to see Mr. Bing at least once a year! I would like to meet Mrs. Bing, too, one of these days! So long for now!

A SALUTE TO BING

Allen Griffin

Chapters have been written and phrases have been sculptured about "The American Dream" by many illustrious as well as innumerable other people of all ages and various conceptions, for our part, we can actually picture it, it is illustrated in color, movement, fantasy and reality by Bing Crosby's National Pro-Amateur Golf Championship at this most fortunate place.

Talk about "The American Dream!" Bing is part of it. Where else could you dream up such a man and such a career? The players, pros and amateurs are part of it; the skill, coordination, stamina and will to win of athletes that are sportsmen: the atmosphere of humor, from salty to zany: the democratic cooperation of the thousands in the galleries of spectators: the assistance of the volunteers selling tickets and programs and acting as marshals: celebrities mugging for the laughs that come easy and happy or concentrating mightily upon their efforts as golfers: the silence when a putt is lined up, the sighs and groans when it misses by a fraction of an inch or hangs on the lip of the cup, and the cheers when a great chip or putt is sunk.

Let us go on to the holiday mood in wind, rain or sunshine: the great organization and timing of the events: the relaxed showmanship: the fact that all receipts go to charities and philanthropies. And naturally (how naturally!) Bing ambling here or quipping there or laughing somewhere else, enjoying friends and game that are dear to his heart.

Bing, this is a magnificent picture of American life--the way we like to think of our fellow countrymen. No man who has written a book about "The American Dream" has made its meaning as clear as you do with your Clambake.

Again, thanks a million!

(Monterey Peninsula Herald)

January 14, 1959

BARRY, BING CLOBBER RIVALS

Nick Kenny

It's axiomatic that if you give people what they want, they'll wait. And to garb (or garble the maxim in the modern dress of television, they'll wait for it! Last Sunday on the Late Show, which started at 11:15 p.m. and ended after 1 a.m., CBS premiered "Going My Way," starring Barry Fitzgerald and a promising young crooner Harry Lillis Crosby. Not only did the film reach stratospheric rating heights for the time, but it hijacked 73 percent of the viewing audience, according to the Arbitron poll.

The point implicit in this lesson is that if a product has merit, the element of time isn't vital for acceptance. We're not that credulous to think that this case vaporizes the concept that prime time isn't more desirable than an odd slot; all things being equal, the choicer the time, the bigger the public.

Perhaps in view of the resounding reception of "Going My Way", timid brass will be emboldened about venturing into fringe time. The unknown is now known.

(Daily Mirror)

January 31, 1959



Bing, Fred MacMurray, Desi Arnaz
arriving for the television show
of the tournament

GATE TOPS \$100,000 FOR THE FIRST TIME

Gross receipts for the Crosby Golf Tournament went over \$100,000 for the first time in history.

That was the heart-warming news highlighting last night's triumphant Victory Dinner at the Monterey County Fairgrounds.

Host Bing Crosby revealed to the 650 or so players, sports writers and tournament workers that the sun-blest 1959 tournament grossed \$105,000 for charity. That figure compares with \$42,000 for last year's event.

Before handing out the prize-money, Crosby cracked that he wasn't sure who had won.

"When I went off TV, the winner was in a bunker," Crosby quipped.

The winner Art Wall, accepted checks totalling \$6,000 for winning the professional (\$4,000) and pro-am (\$2,000) divisions of the tournament. And, he shared the spotlight with National Amateur champion Charley Coe, who teamed with him for the pro-am victory.

Crosby also doled out prize money to the runners-up in both pro and pro-am divisions with a special bow to young Gene Littler for his heroic, if futile, rally that died with a shot into the ocean on the final hole.

Littler confided that he used a "hooked four wood" on "that miserable hole" to end the tournament.

Crosby joshed with each of the winners and noted that "I know this tournament is 18 years old, because I have to wear glasses to see the winners list."

GATE TOPS \$100.00 FOR FIRST TIME.....Cont'd.

After the ceremonies, Ed Carter of the Professional Golfers Assn. turned the tables on Crosby to present him with a plaque for "doing more for pro golf than anyone in 1958."

Carter also gave out special gold medals to Wall and Coe for winning the tournament.

The Clambake again wound up with a star-studded variety show. Providing the entertainment were recording star Jane Morgan of "Fascination" and "The Day the Rains Came" fame, riotous TV comic Dick Shawn with his pointed jibes at rock-and-roll, amazing magician Gali, Gali, dancers Ackerman and Malone and the Buddy Cole Orchestra.

And then it was time again for Bing to wind up the 18th annual Crosby Clambake with the traditional signature song-"Now Is the Hour."

(Monterey Peninsula Herald)

January 19, 1959

CROSBY HOT, COLES QUIETLY CARDS 85

You're Jim Coles. Your handicap is 14 and you haven't been playing much golf lately. Your usual gallery consists of three other players and a couple of caddies.

Your job: To play with Bing Crosby in full view of several thousand Valley golf fans in the Phoenix Open Pro-Amateur tournament at Arizona Country Club.

Also in your foursome is a fellow Thunderbird Jimmy Geare, Phoenix Open chairman, and a flashy-dressed fellow (blue knickerbockers, white sweater, and baby blue shoes) named Jimmy Demaret.

The crowd presses around the first tee and makes the fairway even narrower than usual. Bing's quiet quips help ease the tension, but there is pressure-plenty of it.

Your first drive is long and true. Whew, what a relief that is.

On No. 2 your drive is in the fairway (the fairway on No. 4). A hefty hook is responsible for that embarrassing circumstance.

Then comes the never-to-be-forgotten ninth.

Crosby asks you what club you'd recommend on the 169-yard hole.

"Use your 4-iron," you reply. Bing ignores your advice, selects his 3-iron, and slaps the ball onto the green and into the hole for the fourth ace of his career.

Later comes No. 18, Geare hooks his drive wildly into the crowd on the left, but there are no casualties.

You mutter "at least I haven't done that," and send a long drive safely down the fairway.

But your second shot is something else again. It's a low wicked hook that smacks a man in a plaid sport shirt and bounds off onto the 10th tee. He rubs the bruise gingerly, but smiles. No broken bones, apparently.

"I usually try to hit only Thunderbirds," you exclaim, laughing hollowly.

You recover, hole out, and watch Bing sink a 15-footer for a birdie.

The match is over, you've shot an 85, and haven't killed anyone. Not a bad day at all, really

(Arizona Republic)

February 5, 1959

When Bing fired that hole-in-one, notes Tony Buscaglia, he got almost as much newsprint as the other Bing did when he fired Maria Callas.

(Daily Mirror)

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February 8, 1959

PEN PAL PAGE

Pat Sullivan

Mrs. Joan Hallgarten
6 Park Street
Pascoe Vale, W. 8
Victoria, Australia

Natalie Lawson
296 Croydon Road
Laingholm
Auckland, New Zealand

Joseph J. Albert
2827 Chicksaw Street
New Orleans, La.

Marlice Ging
6539 Riverside Drive
Tinley Park, Illinois

Mary Louise Kenney
310 Mt. Vernon Street
Dorchester 25, Mass.

Mary Mekus
91 West Doughty Street
Dunkirk, New York

Joan and Natalie are two of our Southern Cross Branch members who would like penpals. Joan, aged 31, is the mother of two boys, aged 6 and 2. She is interested in films, ballet, reading, view card collecting, and letter writing. Natalie is 16 years old, and she is interested in stamp collecting, reading, swimming and fishing.

A very interesting and friendly letter from Joe tells me that he is a new member of Club Crosby and is very much interested in acquiring penpals.

Meg, aged 16, is a high school junior who lists her hobbies as reading, cooking, listening and dancing to records, roller and ice skating, and writing letters. Her father spent 20 years in the Air Force and Meg is especially interested in writing to servicemen.

Mary Lou, aged 22, works for an insurance company in Boston. Her hobbies are clothes and fan clubs. She is interested in Bing, politics, and baseball (a Red Sox fan).

Mary, aged 19, is also an insurance company employee. She recently graduated from The Bryant and Stratton Business School in Buffalo and is now working in Fredonia. Mary lists her hobbies and interests as being sports, collecting records, music of all kinds, reading, movies, and collecting photos of movie stars.

If you wish to be included on the PEN PAL PAGE, contact Miss. Pat Sullivan, 3134 North 53rd. Street, Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin.

How wonderful, in these days of Lawrence Squawk. The Shames Brothers, and other assorted menaces, to find a couple of first-class talents performing up to the peaks of their powers. That is the situation in an LP album called, "Fancy Meeting You Here", the cover of which shows Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney and a collection of trunks and travel posters, and the contents of which features this pair at their lighthearted best. Musical journeys around the world usually turn out to be deadly dull; this one based on an idea by Sammy Cahn and James Van Heusen, is sprightly and rhythmic, and includes two of their own songs and a number of other global efforts by such teams as Ira Gershwin and Vernon Duke, and Jay Livingston and Ray Evans. Crosby has not sounded better in years, Miss. Clooney is in great form. (Cosmopolitan)

February, 1959

Story Line: Pastor of a Catholic church in a theatrical section of New York, Bing Crosby is upset when Debbie Reynolds, needing money for the support of her ailing father, goes to work in a second rate nightclub whose show is produced by Robert Wagner, a man of unsavory reputation in regard to women.

What follows then is in essence a struggle between Bing and Wagner for Debbie: The former seeking her soul and the latter her body.

Bing wins the people around Wagner - Ray Walston, Wagner's alcoholic accompanist, and the various chorines and other members of the little troupe - but Wagner appears to be winning with Debbie.

As his ultimate card, Bing offers Wagner a spot on a giant charity television show he is staging - an opportunity Wagner has sought for years - in return for his relinquishment of Debbie.. Wagner agrees, but in his moment of triumph a minor incident brings a stark moment of self revelation which he attempts to expiate by withdrawing from the show. The action of this sinner also serves to remind Bing that he is the instrument of God's will and not His chief planner.

The final scene shows Debbie and Wagner driving off after a wedding ceremony performed by Bing. The picture's closing title is: "The Beginning".

Writer: This is an original screenplay by Robert O'Brien. The character of Father Conroy (Crosby) and the setting of the picture were suggested by the late Father Leonard, Pastor of St. Malachy's church, 47th. Street, New York City. Mr. O'Brien's previous credits include the Bob Hope pictures, "Fancy Pants" and "The Lemon Drop Kid."

Producer-Director: Frank Tashlin is producing and directing "Say One For Me". His recent credits include "Geisha Boy"; "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?", "The Girl Can't Help It". He last worked with Miss Reynolds on "Susan Slept Here." He is a cartoonist turned writer, then director and producer.

Songs: Were written by Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn, current holders of the Academy Award for "All The Way" and Van Heusen had previously won an Oscar for "Swinging On A Star" from the Crosby picture, "Going My Way". There are eight songs in "Say One For Me." These are:

- Say One For Me (sung by Crosby)
- The Secret of Christmas (sung by Crosby, Reynolds, Wagner)
- The Girl Most Likely to Succeed (sung by Reynolds and Wagner)
- Chico's Cha-cha (sung by Reynolds and Wagner)
- I Couldn't Care Less (sung by Crosby)
- You Can't Love 'Em All (sung by Wagner)
- You're Starting To Get to Me (sung by Reynolds)
- The Night Rock and Roll Died (sung by Judy Harriet)

ACTION ON SET TODAY

In this sequence, Bing, having learned that Debbie is working with Wagner, decides to see for himself what is going on. Donning "Civilian clothes and accompanied by one of his parishioners who is a detective, he goes to the Pink Garter. He enters while Wagner is doing the "You Can't Love Em All" number. Then Debbie, who has left college to come to this job, does "The Girl Most Likely to Succeed", wearing a cap and gown over her dancing costume. It is a pretty racey number during which she lands in the lap of a man in the audience. She and

1/2 VITAL STATISTICS.....Cont'd.

Bing are both electrified when Bing happens to be that man. Debbie's reaction is noted by Wagner, who assumes that Bing has been ungentlemanly. The matter is straightened out, at least temporarily, in the ensuing sequence which takes place backstage.

Cast: Bing Crosby, Debbie Reynolds, Robert Wagner, Ray Walston, Les Tremaine, Connie Gilchrist, Alena Murray, Frank McHugh, Nina Shipman, Stella Stevens, Judy Harriet.

"Say One For Me" is Bing's first picture in nearly two years. The picture provides the most dancing Miss. Reynolds has done since "Susan Slept Here", nearly six years ago and in "Chico's Cha-Cha" the most complicated number of her career. It is Wagner's dancing debut and what amounts to his singing debut. He has had little training in either art and the studio finds his performance a triumph of talent and application. The picture gives Misses Murray, Shipman and Stevens their first major roles. It is the film debut of Judy Harriet, 16-year-old Los Angeles girl, who was formerly one of Walt Disney's "Mouseketeers".

(20th. Century-Fox)

* * * * *

Bing Crosby never lingers around a stage to say goodbye to one and all after a movie job is finished. He's too shy for anything like that, preferring to leave some appropriate little gift to take care of such amenities.

In finishing "Say One For Me" a few days ago, Bing followed the same routine. Everyone associated with him in the movie got a remembrance-not all elaborate, but carrying the personal touch.

Bing did go overboard a bit in the case of Bob Wagner, playing second lead in the film, because of their mutual interest in golf and long discussions they enjoyed about the game. The crooner learned for the first time that Bob-in his early days of campaigning to win movie-tycoon attention anywhere at all-used to caddie at Lakeside. No new clubs or anything like that went to Bob! He received a three-month - old Labrador Retriever from Bing's own Kennel, a son of his prized dog, Remus.

To heroine, Debbie Reynolds, now in Europe, Bing mailed a tooled leather-covered copy of the script with a set of color stills from the movie. There were 97 people involved in the "Say One For Me" project-and none was overlooked.

(Yonkers Herald Statesman)

April 1, 1959

* * * * *

IT'S THE REV. MR. CROSEY AGAIN

I watched Bing Crosby's first day's work on the currently shooting "Say One For Me". Me, I have this to say: "This one could be fabulous." There was Crosby, in cassock and collar again as if for "Going My Way". But this time sitting behind his desk in the parish house of St. Joseph's, being in the middle of the Manhattan theatre district.

The Rev. Mr. Crosby had just officiated at one of the 2 a.m. daily services he inaugurated in his church to catch his show biz parishoners coming off duty.

Now here he is, at 3 a.m., reading a worldly looking paper instead of being in bed. His housekeeper, Connie Gilchrist, is railing at him for not resting.

Humorously, Crosby reminds her that if he does he winds up being too sleepy to sermonize well at the 6. a. m. Mass.

"That's a pretty sharp audience I have at six o'clock," he

IT'S THE REV. MR. CROSBY AGAIN.....Cont'd.

reminds her.

Suddenly you notice that the paper he's so interested in isn't the parish magazine but "Variety"--the "bible" of U.S. show business.

This is a totally new idea of showing a priest in films.

This one--as producer-director Frank Tashlin put it to me, "was headed for show business himself when he got the call. Now he finds himself with practically nothing but show folk for parishioners. What is more natural than that he take this greasepaint approach to his duties?"

"He even organizes charity shows in the church basement. That's how Debbie Reynolds and Robert Wagner get in the story.

Three ingenious methods are being used to turn Crosby the priest into Crosby the crooner. In the basement rehearsals, as an old show biz aspirant, he just can't resist getting into the act with Debbie and Wagner.

In the church itself, he--and we--hear the theme song going on inside his head as he goes about his duties. "Say One For Me", of course, refers to a prayer. Says Tashlin, "It's probably going to be one of the big song hits of the year."

All the numbers except one--four for Bing, five for Wagner--are by Sammy Chan and Jimmy Van Heusen. The odd one is an old standard, "Blue Moon", which Crosby will sing to himself, after reminiscing about the girl he loved but didn't marry.

"This picture," said Tashlin, who also had a hand in the script, "is going to be a real heart-warmer."

A rib-tickler, too. I watched burly Connie Gilchrist berate Crosby for having a "bottle of booze" on his desk, even though a gift from a parishioner. He remonstrated that it wasn't any such thing it was Benedictine, "made by the Benedictine monks."

"Well somebody," says Irish-brogued Connie, arms akimbo, "should tell the Pope."

(Picturegoer - British movie magazine - January 31, 1959)

(Donovan Pedelty - Reporting from Hollywood)

Submitted by Pat Sullivan

* * * * *



Kathryn and "Tex" after his first haircut

In 1936 our club for Bing was started, and I thought it would be an idea to find some interesting things that were going on with Bing in this year. Well, it was kinda hard, because my Crosbyana collection doesn't go back that far. However, I found one very interesting article, and a few other things, I do hope you'll enjoy reading them.

BING CROSBY PLANS HIS FUTURE

Virginia Wood

Soon there will be no more movies, or radio for Bing. Ready why!

If you're a Bing Crosby fan (and who isn't?), you'd better rush right over and see his newest picture, tune in on his weekly broadcast and lay in a supply of phonograph records, because you're not going to see or hear much of him any more three years from now!

It was just recently, when Bing was presented with his new Paramount picture contract and the Kraft radio contract, that his plans came to light. And it was only after the usual five-year clause had been written into the contracts that Bing's deep-laid plot was discovered.

"Oaky," said Bing to studio and radio officials, "if you'll just change that clause to read 'three-year', I'll sign."

"But," the executives argued slightly bewildered, "why three years? After all, you've always signed for five years before."

"Well," was the Crosby's calm response, "I figure on retiring at the end of three years-for good."

And that was that.

Of course, the whole thing seems absurd. Actors don't just up and retire of their own accord in the middle of a successful career. It's practically unheard of! But then, Bing has never considered himself an actor-in that sense of the word. "I am," Bing has said, again and again a crooner. That's all-just an old gravel throat."

And in the back of his mind there's been the hope that some day-not too far in the future-he could pack up his make-up box for keeps, put on his old orange sweater and cap (without any comments from his family or the studio) and really do the things he's had his heart set on.

Quietly and calmly, he's been making his plans for the day-investing his money in a few good, sound stocks, buying real estate and going about the business of preparing for the future-his and his family's.

What's he going to do, you ask?

Well, you'd never in the world guess. Bing wants to write!

Very Casually, he's taken more and more to writing lengthy replies to fan letters; batting out articles for this and that magazine, without saying much, but obviously trying his hand at becoming an author. And darned good, too, if you ask me.

Of course, that isn't all Bing plans to do. During the past year, he's been getting things in ship-shape order, down at his ranch in Southern California so the family can move there to settle down. And there's an eight-stall stable all ready, to receive his breeding mares, built in a U-shape so it can be enlarged, if necessary, to accommodate more horses.

For Bing's race horses haven't been just a fad with him, as many people have thought. In his own placid, non-committal fashion, Bing has been looking to the future.

"I'm supporting sixteen horses now," Bing said the other day, "but I expect them to support me in my old age!"

There'll be fields of alfalfa soon, for feed for the young colts. There's a small orchard on the property which will supply fruit for the three boys. There's a swimming pool for hot summer days and there'll be a real home life for the Crosbys when they're ready to settle down.

There's a new house in town under construction too, when they crave a taste of city life. My guess is that it will be seldom. But, at any rate, it will be there if they want it.

And then there's the golf situation. You've all heard about how Bing sneaks away at every opportunity for a couple of rounds on his favorite course. But he's never had time to really go into it in a big way-and that's what he wants to do. Some day, he hopes, he'll be good enough to enter the national tournaments. But that takes practice, and by golly, that's what he's going to have!

And what, you're bound to ask, about the children? Their education and everything?"

Our favorite crooner seems to have thought of that too. There are three insurance policies, maturing when they are sixteen, to amply provide for their education-through college-but that's all.

"When a child learns that his parents are always ready and willing to gratify his every whim," Bing explains, "his chances of developing into a self-reliant, useful citizen are definitely diminished. I came from a family of seven children, and while my father made a good living and enough to furnish all of us a good home, good wholesome food and high school educations, anything beyond that was strictly for us to get out and scratch.

"Such a program I would consider a good one for my boys.

"Their insurance policies guarantee them only an education. Other than that and a good home, I don't propose anything they can't earn.

"I've seen too many examples of spoiled and pampered lads who were totally unprepared for adversity to want my children brought up that way."

I dropped around to talk to Larry Crosby. I really was quite upset at all this.

"What about 'Bing Crosby Inc.'?" I inquired referring to the organization created for the sole purpose of handling Bing's affairs.

"Well," he said, smiling in his quiet way, "I guess it means Everett and I will be looking for jobs in about three years. There won't be any more 'Bing Crosby, Inc.' when 'The Groaner' retires."

For the past few years, Larry has had charge of Bing's radio activities, while Everett has acted as his manager. It's all been done very business-like and efficient manner, too.

The first thing the Crosbys will do however, before the head of the house settles down to a life of old clothes, horse-raising, writing and golf, will be to take that long-awaited trip around the world. There are all sorts of out-of-the-way fishing spots Bing has been wanting to explore for a long time-tarpon fishing in Florida, and Zane Grey's favorite haunt in the South Seas.

But I, for one, hate the whole idea. After all, there's only one Bing. I'm going right out and buy every Crosby record I can find, just to fill in the gaps-when Bing retires.

(Screen Book)

March, 1936

In 1936, Bing had three movies out, they were:

OUR 23RD. YEAR.....Cont'd.

Anything Goes - co-starring, Ethel Merman - Ida Lupino - Charles Ruggles
Rhythm On the Range - co-starring, Martha Raye - Bob Burns - Frances Farmer

Pennies from Heaven - co-starring, Madge Evans - Edith Fellows - Donald Meek - Louis Armstrong

This sentimental comedy will delight children of all ages. Crosby of course can do no wrong, and jazz leader Louis Armstrong gets a big reception. Crosby is imprisoned by mistake. His singing touches the heart of a condemned man who gives him a letter to his family. He delivers the letter to a little waif and her grandfather and takes them under his protective wing. He also falls in love with a social worker. Crosby sings four out of five good songs in the film, which moves pleasantly and lightly to a satisfactory finish. Edith Fellows plays the impish waif.

(New York Daily Mirror) 3 Stars December 10, 1936

Records released in 1936

Lovely Lady
Would You

The Touch of Your Lips
Twilight on the Trail

Robins and Roses
We'll Rest at the End of the Trail

It Ain't Necessarily So
I Got Plenty o' Nuttin'

Roundup Lullaby
Empty Saddles

I'm and Old Cowhand
I Can't Escape from You

Song of the Islands
Aloha Oe

Hawaiian Paradise
South Sea Island Magic

The House Jack Built for Jill
Shoe Shine Boy

The Way You Looked Tonight
A Fine Romance

Me And The Moon
Beyond Compare

Pennies from Heaven
Let's Call a Heart a Heart

So Do I
One Two Button Your Shoe

Just One Word of Consolation
Dear Old Girl

Sketches Ben Burroughs

With Inspiration

It's the man with inspiration...who can climb the steepest hill...he will win although defeated...for he has an iron will...men of faith and firm conviction...that the road they take is right...can overcome great obstacles...and pierce the darkest night...inspiration is the impulse...than can make a man go on...when the cards are stacked against him...and all hope seems to be gone...some can gain this priceless treasure...through the miracle of love...while others find it in a prayer...to dear God up above...whatever motivates...those who are blessed to own...can find some joy in sadness...for they are not alone...it's the man with inspiration...who can pass the roughest test...who always gives his best.

(New York Journal American)

I am interested in purchasing scrapbooks and photographs on Bing. Please write Mary Mekus, 91 West Doughty Street, Dunkirk, New York.

SOME FACTS ABOUT NIAGARA FALLS

Jo Clancy

Well, Gang here I am again after such a long time. Thought you may be interested in a little data about Niagara Falls, the most beautiful sight anyone could wish for.

When I lived in Toronto, Canada, I made many trips to the Falls and was always thrilled at the sight of them, especially at blossom time when the whole Niagara Belt is alive with breath-taking colour, then in Winter they are like a beautiful wonderland of rainbow and frozen winter magic.

Scientists estimate the age of the Falls to be about 50,000 years. Niagara means "Hark to the Thunder". Twelve million cubic feet of water pass over them per minute, so you can guess what the roar is like. You can hear it a mile or more away.

There are various trips around the Falls, the best known is the ride in the Ferry: "Maid of the Mist" which takes you almost to the foot of the Falls...a spine tingling thrill. The little boat rocks and sways from the awful force of the water. You are supplied with rain coats to protect you from the continual spray. If you are from the Canadian side, your coat is black, and if you are from the United States, it is yellow. That way the United States Customs can keep tabs on you.

There is also a trip you can take at the back of the Falls by climbing down long ladders to a cave at the side then along a ledge at the back. The noise was deafening and I was so scared. I didn't enjoy myself very much, till I was back on top and could think about it.

The drop in the Niagara River, within a distance of 35 miles is 326 feet, of which 167 feet is the straight drop of the falls. They are divided into two, The American Falls are 167 feet high and 1,060 feet across, and the larger, the Canadian or Horseshoe Falls as they are better known, are 158 feet high and 2,550 feet across.

Through the efforts of civic interests, on both the Canadian and the American sides of Niagara Falls, it has been made possible for them to be illuminated at night, the tremendous electrical current being generated by the Falls themselves. This phenomenon is most beautiful to see, as the coloured lighting makes them look like a wall of flame one minute or a bright green mist of blue or yellow, and so on.

The Falls are illuminated every night throughout the year with special features on particular occasions, such as light drills, fireworks etc.

The Indians worshipped the Falls, believing that a spirit dwelt in the mighty cataracts. It was their custom to send an Indian maiden in a canoe, laden with offerings over the Falls as a sacrifice to this great spirit.

As time advanced, the Indians were gradually driven into the background, and the white man found his way to the shores of the Niagara.

It was in 1678 that the Rev. Father Hennepin, accompanying La Salle on his journey to reach the upper lakes, saw the mighty cataracts, and they are believed to be the first white men to see Niagara Falls.

The Canadian side of the Falls is connected to the United States by the magnificent Rainbow Bridge. The surrounding gardens are very lovely and well kept with a magnificent floral clock.

There is also the great Whirlpool which lies a mile or so down the river, with a thrilling ride across the great chasm in a cable-car,

SOME FACTS ABOUT NIAGARA FALLS.....Cont'd.

enough to scare the life out of even the bravest of the brave.

On the Canadian side of the Falls there is a wonderful museum housing much Indian folks' lore. Another grand sight to see is the Burning Spring. The story goes this way: The Old Burning Spring is said to have been discovered by the Indians nearly three hundred years' ago. There is no record of this, but they have a record of time over one hundred and seventy-five years' ago, when the Indians found there was sufficient minerals in the water to cause it to burn. How they received this knowledge is very interesting.

A band of warriors returned from the annual hunt, the success of which was celebrated with great feasting. All the preparations were being made for the feast -- the food piled high beside the babbling spring, when a spark from the flint accidentally fell into the spring, causing a great flame. When the Indians saw this they became frightened and ran away. Finally the medicine men of the Tribe persuaded them to return and worship the Burning Spring as a god of fire.

When I went to see it, I saw the well and the cool clear water at the bottom, then the guide threw a match into it and we were told to stand back as a huge burst of flame sprang up. They can extinguish a flame by covering the outlet of the well. Then we were all given a glass of the water to drink and it was lovely and clean, fresh and clear. The guide then put a match to our glass and they burned, but the flame will only burn you if you put your hand on top of it. Our guide put his hand under the flame, as it came out of my glass and it didn't burn him.

I wonder even today if that is the secret of all Fire-eaters!

Well, Gang, that's all for now. So long.

"Bing" cereley,

Jo

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THUNDER OVER MANHATTAN * GARY CROSBY SOUNDS OFF Paul Phelan

Gary Crosby, who has made his share of headlines (not all of them complimentary), says he would like nothing better than to meet his detractors "in any kind of a locked room."

"Those persons are nothing but ...gossiping...small...egotisticals," said the muscular eldest son of millinaire crooner Bing.

Gary's fiery salvo, set off during a luncheon interview here "held up to ridicule and falsely reported" the alleged shenanigans of Gary and his brothers, Philip, Dennis and Lindsay.

The Crosby boys sometimes have been as difficult to reach as their illustrious father, but 25-year-old Gary apparently welcomed this opportunity to enter a stanch defense of the family foibles.

"I would certainly like to meet any one of them in any kind of a locked room," he said of the critics. (he looks as if he could handle himself well too.) "Their's is the worst type of attack on anybody. Some of them write under an assumed name. If they are such protectors of decency, why don't they put their own name on their writings?"

"They get a story and they switch the wording to make events look like our fault, or to look much worse than things really were.

"There was one writer who spoke of my brother saying, 'Fun-Loving Philip Drives Into River.'"

"Well," and here Gary's voice grew even more bitter, "that was when 'fun-loving Philip' was in the Army. He had been on a pass, and was on his way back to camp in the early hours of the morning because he had guard duty. He fell asleep at the wheel, went through four guard rails, over a 20-foot cliff, into a river bed."

Gary leaned over the luncheon table intently. He might have killed himself. But the writer makes it look like drunken driving or speeding.

"Then there was another story about when I was supposed to have started a fight with a cheese company official, John Geiger. It was at a party given by Kraft and Milton Berle in honor of Carl Sandburg. But for once I had an eye-witness to the whole thing. Mrs. Ruth Berle, the comedian's wife, went to bat for me, went all out to prove it was none of my doing. That took bravery, because it was her husband's sponsoring company.

The conversation switched to more pleasant matters and Gary was asked for his opinion of Pat Boone, an appearance on whose show was the reason Gary and his brothers were in town.

"He has a beautiful voice," Gary said firmly, unfettered by family loyalty.

How about a comparison with Bing?

"I don't know how you can make a comparison," he said. "They have the same ease and both have good voices. But it's tough to compare them. Styles in singing and in music have changed."

Many people might think that the son of a man whose fame and fortune are legend would be given to complacency. But Gary is fervent and earnest about his career as a singer.

"I've got to hustle," he said, "since I'm only starting out. It doesn't leave much time for family life. But once I'm established I'll have that and maybe a family of my own.

Gary said that right now, though he likes girls and dates them, "I run as fast as these stubby little legs let me." He and Lindsay are unmarried. Dennis and Philip took showgirls as brides.

Gary recently completed a part in the movie, "Mardi Gras" (starring Pat Boone), has made numerous TV and night club appearances and has recorded an album of blues and did it for Verve.

The future looks good too. There's a 20th Century-Fox contract calling for two pictures a year for five years, a night club act in the works and more TV and recording opportunities shaping up.

Gary admitted he has never taken a singing lesson. But he said he was going to start so soon.

"I can't read music, I listen to a song until I learn the melody and lyrics."

For recreation Gary plays hand-ball and is also guard, along with brother Philip, on a basketball team representing an auto court in an East Los Angeles league.

Another of his interests is the Thaliens. This organization was started by a group of young actors and actresses in Hollywood for the purpose of raising funds and helping emotionally disturbed children.

The young man obviously is a man of many sides.

(World Telegram and Sun)

February 14, 1959

Bob Hope, was asked by an interviewer: "All that kidding to the contrary," I said, "you're very fond of Bing, aren't you?"

"He's the tops," said Bob, slowly. "While I'm very proud I'm a friend of Bing's yet I've never tried to find out why. I don't know what he gets from associating with me, but an important thing I get from him is relaxation. I can get tied in knots over some tiny detail, and when I start sputtering, Bing just drawls, "Relax, boy. Let's examine the logistics of this thing."

(Movieland)

January, 1959